

## Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 TRSE-00  
IO-13 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /068 W  
-----059841 171729Z /73  
O 171721Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5381

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FOR INR

E.O. 11652: N.A.  
TAGS: UR, SP  
SUBJECT: SPANISH GOVERNMENT PUBLIC REACTION TO SOVIET  
TRIALS

REF: STATE 178559

1. A SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN READ THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT TO THE PRESS JULY 13: "THESE TRIALS CANNOT FAIL TO AROUSE CONCERN IN RELATION TO THE COURSE OF INTERNATIONAL DETENTE WHICH THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT BELIEVES SHOULD BE MAINTAINED AND DEVELOPED IN A POSITIVE WAY." ACCORDING TO ONE NEWSPAPER, THE SPOKESMAN ALSO CALLED THE TRIALS A "VERITABLE OBSTACLE" AGAINST THE HELSINKI AGREEMENTS AND AGAINST THE NEXT CSCE MEETING.

2. THE CULTURAL ACTION SECRETARIAT OF THE UNION OF THE DEMOCRATIC CENTER (THE GOVERNING PARTY) HAD PREVIOUSLY RELEASED THE TEXT OF A TELEGRAM IT SENT TO SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN BOGOMOLOV, IN WHICH IT "ENERGETICALLY PROTESTS" THE TRIALS AS A "MANIFEST  
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VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND OF TREATIES SIGNED" BY THE SOVIET UNION.

3. PRESS COVERAGE OF THE TRIALS HAS BEEN HEAVY, AND CRITICAL IN TONE, WITH SOME REPORTAGE BECOMING FRANKLY EDITORIAL: WROTE THE WIDELY READ NEWSWEEKLY CAMBIO 16 IN ITS STORY ON THE TRIALS, "ALL THIS IS A FARCE". IN

ITS LEAD EDITORIAL JULY 16, THE INFLUENTIAL LIBERAL-LEFT MADRID DAILY EL PAIS BEGAN "THERE ARE INCREASINGLY FEWER EUROPEAN OPINION MEDIA WHICH ACCEPT THE DISFIGURATIONS OF TRUTH WITH WHICH THE LEADERS OF THE SOVIET UNION TRY TO HIDE THE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE ABSENCE OF POLITICAL LIBERTIES IN THEIR COUNTRY." DISMISSING PAST EXPLANATIONS BASED ON THE USSR'S RELATIVE LACK OF DEVELOPMENT, EL PAIS SAID "THE NEW AND VIOLENT OUTBREAK OF TRIALS AGAINST THE DISSIDENTS IN THE USSR IS BEING SEEN FROM EUROPE NOT ONLY WITH COMPLETE INCREDULITY REGARDING THE ACCUSATIONS OF ESPIONAGE AND MORAL DEPRAVATION, BUT ALSO FROM A STATE OF MIND WHICH EXCLUDES ANY ATTENUATION OR HISTORICAL JUSTIFICATION WHATEVER."

4. IN A COLUMN WRITTEN BEFORE THE TRIALS ENDED, THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCE) ORGAN MUNDO OBRERO, WHICH APPEARS WEEKLY, CRITICIZED THE INCOMMUNICADO STATE IMPOSED ON THE ACCUSED, THE LACK OF ACCESS OF THE PUBLIC AND WESTERN NEWS MEDIA, AND THE FAILURE TO PROVIDE HUMAN RIGHTS GUARANTEES PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IN CASES WHERE THE ACCUSATION IS SO SERIOUS AND THE POSSIBLE PENALTY SO SEVERE. WE ANTICIPATE A FURTHER PCE CONDEMNATION REGARDING THE VERDICT AND SENTENCING IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF MUNDO OBRERO. (MADRID 6933 REPORTED EARLIER PCE CRITICISM OF THE ORLOV LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TRIAL.) TODMAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, PRESS RELEASES, POLITICAL TRIALS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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